



Press Release
May 21, 2003

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SHARE Endorses the Highway Funding Equity Act of 2003

Bills Advance Fairness in Federal Highway Funding

Washington, D.C. – May 21, 2003 – A bipartisan proposal to provide states with the most pressing transportation needs a fairer share of federal highway funds is being endorsed by the States' Highway Alliance for Real Equity (SHARE).

The endorsement is for House and Senate versions of legislation proposed today by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R – TX), Congressman Baron Hill (D – IN), Senator George Voinovich (R – OH), and Senator Carl Levin (D – MI).

As Congress considers reauthorization of the current federal transportation bill which expires September 30, 2003, SHARE is working closely with Republicans and Democrats to ensure the distribution of federal highway funds among the states better reflects today's transportation needs. The bills unveiled today, both titled the "Highway Funding Equity Act of 2003," advance the principles of SHARE – to ensure that every state receives a return through the federal highway programs of at least 95 percent of its share of contributions to the Highway Trust Fund and that every dollar of the federal highway program is equitably distributed.

The Highway Funding Equity Act of 2003 recognizes the tremendous needs of the National Highway System in all states. Both versions provide strong assistance to the nation's low population density states by protecting these states at their current statutory share of federal highway program funds. The bills would limit the amount transferred to other states to no more than 5 cents of every dollar any state paid into the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund, ensuring that every state is better able to meet its own transportation needs.

The Minimum Guarantee formula incorporated in the Highway Funding Equity Act of 2003 would actually cost less to reach a 95% minimum rate of return for all states than the current TEA 21 Minimum Guarantee calculation requires.

SHARE member states fully endorse the Highway Funding Equity Act of 2003 and will work to ensure the incorporation of these principles in the federal surface transportation reauthorization now before the Congress.

Donor states (those that have paid more into the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund than they have received in federal-aid highway program funds) have been organized over the past twenty years in their efforts to improve the rate of return in highway program funds. SHARE is focused on improving the equity of federal highway funding distributions among the states.

A list of member states of SHARE and other information on the SHARE alliance and its principles is available on our website.

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